

Micayla with Buttercup, Dennis Ramsey with Ozzy, Cheryl Mellenthin with Ben, Charlie Langford with Casper, and Patty Stavinoha

PUPS



Dennis Ramsey helped PUPS start adoption day events at Petco in Katy

SAVING

Local PUPS organization helps furry friends find forever homes

Written by Taylor McLaughlin | Select photography by Luciana Justice

If you've ever spent time at a Petco or any other pet store on the weekend, you have probably had the opportunity to run across various dog and cat foster and adoption services. As you walk around the store, those sweet faces look up at you and your heart quickly melts. These animals are looking for a companion just as much as you are; they are longing to become pets in a safe residence. Several shelters and additional non-profit rescues work to protect local animals, making sure they are treated fairly and have a place to call home.

Prevent Unwanted Pets, best known as PUPS, is one of many great organizations working in Katy to find strays new homes. PUPS strives to "prevent unwanted litters of kittens and puppies" and "encourages people to assist in rescue programs for unwanted or abandoned animals," Cheryl Mellenthin, founder of PUPS, shares. The organization believes that people within the community need to be educated on the importance of spaying and neutering.

Starting PUPS

Like many other avid animal lovers, Mellenthin's love for animals, specifically rescues, began early in life. In 1979, shortly after finishing college, the PUPS founder rescued her first pet, a miniature poodle named Oly. Oly, who passed away at the age of 14, became family to Mellenthin and peaked her interest in rescues even more. She could not believe how many dogs were being dumped in Katy and surrounding Houston areas.

Mellenthin explains that she founded PUPS "because [she] was a firm believer in spaying and neutering to help solve the overpopulation problem" in her area. Thanks to donations, her association assists with the cost of spay or neuter bills, keeps animals from being euthanized, and provides foster homes to each animal in the PUPS' system. Since starting the non-profit organization, more than 13,000 animals have been fixed.

Becoming a Pet Foster Parent

By establishing safe environments for the dogs and cats that roam the streets around the Katy community, grateful, loving family companions are produced. Mellenthin believes that "these creatures truly know that they have come out of horrible and scary situations and are now safe." This is just one of the many reasons for her foster program.

PUPS' foster program, which is open to all who are interested, is a great way to make a difference in an animals' life. The process for getting involved is straightforward, too. Mellenthin explains you simply fill out a foster form and be willing to bring the animal to one of their adoption events.

Amber Stady, a PUPS adopter, mentioned that while she was in the process of adopting Jackee, a terrier mix, she was concerned about the puppy getting along with her four pets at home. "PUPS said that I could foster her to see how my other dogs would be toward her. That made the [adoption] decision easier," Stady insists. Stady later finalized her adoption with Jackee and PUPS, becoming a "foster failure." The PUPS founder humorously describes "foster failures" as "foster homes that fall in love with the animal and decide to adopt."



Katyites Miracle and Greg Washington with their pup Boaz

Photo by Brandie Anthon

Jessica, Susan, and Jackson Farrington with their adopted Pomeranian Sparky



Photo by Brandie Anthon



Cheryl Mellenthin loves it when adoption days end with a new home for her furry friends

Adoption Stories

Through the Saturday visits and adoption partnership with Petco, Mellenthin has a list of success stories, each including a happy ending for an innocent animal. Yi Gong, a Katy resident, adopted an orange tabby cat, which her family later named Zai Zai, meaning "cute boy" in Chinese. Gong shares that her daughter loves Zai Zai so much that they immediately became like brother and sister. Through her one adoption and word-of-mouth, Gong has informed others about the impact this organization has on animals, and says, "the people I met truly love and take good care of the animals they are helping."

In addition to Gong and her family, Miracle and Greg Washington were also able to complete their family through the adoption of Boaz, an American Staffordshire terrier mix. During their Saturday visit, Miracle shares that they sat and talked to Boaz's foster mom. "She told us his history," says Washington. The couple felt prepared to expand their family after walking their new-found friend and speaking with PUPS volunteers. **KM**



TAYLOR MCLAUGHLIN is a huge advocate for adopting pets from organizations like PUPS. She fell in love with her beagle mix, Dixie, at an adoption event.

Find them on Facebook by searching "PUPS Prevent Unwanted Pets" Visit pupsofcatspring.com

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HOMES WANTED

Do you have room in your family for one of these adorable dogs? PUPS is trying to find forever homes for this cute bunch.



This 5-year-old mystery mix female was found in Wharton County before making her trip to Katy. She is super sweet, great with kids, and ready for a permanent home.



This sweet 3-year-old male bully mix is a native Katyite and Katy Tiger fan. Since joining PUPS, he hasn't met a dog or person that he doesn't like. He is very well behaved.



Marco, a Labrador Retriever mix, was found wandering country roads, but quickly accepted a ride with new friends. He loves attention and would make a great family dog.



Thanks to a local vet, Sir Spots a Lot, a 1-year-old male, found safety at PUPS. He is great with other dogs and even likes horses.



This sweet boy is a Shepherd mix who loves to run! Melvin was found on the side of the road and would love a jogging partner. He is great on a leash and with other dogs.



PUPS saved this girl's life when she became one of their foster dogs. A Catahoula Cur mix, she loves to run and play and would love a family who is ready for forever.

Visit pupsofcatspring.com for more info on pet adoptions.

*Some of these animals may no longer be available for adoption after time of print.